

Army Offers Storage Meat And Poultry

Will Sell Warehouse Stocks Here and in Chicago to Cities in Car Lots and Give Credit of 30 Days

N. Y. Can't Buy, Says Day

Facilities Lacking Unless Butchers Co-operate in Distribution, He Asserts

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—The army's surplus of frozen poultry, mutton, pork loins and shoulders, now held in cold storage at New York and Chicago, is to be offered to municipalities in carload lots, Acting Director of Sales Morse announced today. Orders will be accepted by the War Department up to September 25. If the surplus is not disposed of by that time other methods of marketing will be tried.

The army's frozen poultry consists of 1,234,793 pounds in refrigeration in New York and 1,056,251 pounds in cold storage warehouses in the Chicago zone. This poultry will be sold to municipalities at 22 cents a pound. The frozen pork includes 338,044 pounds of loins and shoulders in refrigeration at New York and 1,495,956 pounds of shoulders and 596,343 pounds of loins in the Chicago zone. The frozen mutton, consisting of 748,000 pounds in refrigeration at New York, is offered at 18 cents.

"Since these frozen products can only be transported in refrigerator cars,"

said a statement issued by Director Morse, "orders placed by municipalities and municipal selling agencies must be in units of carload lots. Where both poultry and pork are in refrigeration at the same warehouse orders will be accepted for mixed carloads."

"Having been in cold storage, these frozen products once they are removed from refrigeration must be disposed of promptly. Consequently, the War Department cannot afford to ship these refrigerated products to municipalities and municipal selling agencies, as it would add other subsistence which has been sold to the cities, on thirty days' consignments and take back unsold portions of orders placed by the cities. The War Department, however, will extend to municipalities or municipal selling agencies to which city officials have given indorsement a credit of thirty days on orders placed for these products."

Fixed Prices Given

The conditions of resale fixed by the War Department stipulate that the city or its selling agency must agree to sell these products to the public at the prices fixed by the War Department plus a sum sufficient to cover transportation and other expenses incident to reselling, which the municipality or the selling agency must assume.

The fact that surplus frozen meat supplies would be made available to municipalities was known by Dr. Jonathan C. Day, Commissioner of Markets. Dr. Day declared that he would be unable to purchase the meats on consignment because of the lack of cold storage facilities in the sales depots. Dr. Day said he had been interested in the plan of obtaining the goods on consignment and turning them over to retail butchers to be sold at a margin just large enough to cover the overhead expenses.

Albert Rosen, president of the Brooklyn Master Butcher's Association, is known recently to have suggested the handling of the meats and poultry through his chain of stores. Other butchers have made inquiry from time to time. According to Dr. Day's attitude concerning the meats, he is prepared to make them available for local consumers, provided butchers will aid in the distribution. Dr. Day is firmly convinced that the city itself cannot sell the commodities at its sales stations.

Report Denies Profiteering in Clothing Trade

Friedsam Committee Says Prices on Garments and Shoes Are Justified by Shortage and Labor Cost

Meat Declines Wholesale

Failure of Export Demand Expected to Force Sharp Drop in Butter and Eggs

The present high prices demanded for clothing, drygoods and shoes are justified by the unprecedented costs of production and are not due to any profiteering practices of dealers, Michael M. Friedsam, chairman of the subcommittee administering these commodities for the Fair Price Committee, announced yesterday in a report to Arthur Williams, Federal Food Administrator. Colonel Friedsam reported that the labor programme proposed by the State Federation of Labor would relieve a serious problem which is confronting the clothing industry.

Clothing Report

Colonel Friedsam's report enumerates the conditions revealed and the conclusion reached as follows:

"1. That the cause of the present admittedly high prices of these goods is almost entirely an increased cost of production, in fact the highest cost of production that has ever been known in this country, and at the same time an alarming decrease in the amount of goods produced; on the one hand a steadily rising scale of expense, and

on the other a decline in quantities of available merchandise.

"There has not been found any indication of deliberate profiteering; on the contrary, these surveys show that both manufacturers and retailers are working on a closer margin of profit than ever before, and this despite the extreme uncertainty of the present business conditions.

"It is inevitable that with the cost of production of raw materials and of labor at their present high point retail prices should have increased accordingly.

Shoe Costs Explained

"4. With respect to shoes, in which industry preliminary surveys have to date gone further than in other lines, the following excerpts from the reports of Messrs. Emil Weill and John Slater confirm the statement made as to the increase in production cost:

"Previous to the war France, England and Germany made the shoes for the entire world with the exception of this country. During the early part of 1915, the European shoe factories were only permitted to produce 25 per cent of their output for civilian purposes and 75 per cent for army purposes.

"The style of the civilian product, termed a Liberty shoe, in these countries consisted of a black boot and a low shoe. Four years ago this naturally produced a vacuum of shoe throughout the world except in this country. From the day that the armistice was signed and the shoe regulations of the European countries lifted, an immense rush was made to the United States for all the finished leather that was available. This immediately caused a great shortage of leather in this country, and the prices of the leather to where they are at the present time."

"Owing to the lack of shipping since the armistice was signed, their report states, 'we have not been able to get enough raw skin into this country, and Europe owning most of the shipping, naturally gets a larger quantity of raw materials.' Paris to-day is retarding a used pair which can be purchased on Fifth Avenue for \$15 a pair. The price in London for the same shoes is \$20.

"If more sanity was displayed in the buying of shoes by the consumer instead of vanity a noticeable depreciation in price would immediately be felt."

Colonel Friedsam's report closes with an invitation to the public to purchase the less costly goods, advocating the temporary sacrifice of style for service and lower prices.

A lower price for butter and eggs because of the failure of the long awaited export demand to materialize was predicted yesterday by William Cuttrell, manager of the New York Butter and Egg Exchange. The reports of foreign representatives of local firms are discouraging from the exporter's viewpoint, Mr. Cuttrell declared. He denied reports of a butter and egg hoarding here, declaring that each month in storage meant added expenses to the dealer and lower prices for his products. A few "shoe-makers and tailors" that he pointed out for outsiders, have taken refuge into the butter and egg business and are going to land with a disastrous smash, from present indications, Mr. Cuttrell said. "Legitimate dealers, he declared, are always prepared to release their holdings when the market is ready to absorb them."

Prices Due to Drop

"As for the recent lower price fluctuations," Mr. Cuttrell said, "it has scarcely created a ripple in the butter and egg market. That market is governed entirely by the law of supply and demand. With limited exports the supply will naturally be greater and the price, therefore, lower."

The wholesale meat dealers were listed yesterday to help the local fair price committee combat the high cost of living. The packers' representatives told Food Administrator Williams at a conference yesterday that the wholesale margin of meat in this city at no time exceeded 1 cent a pound. They emphasized the fact that consumers are concentrating on the high expense cuts of meat. By diverting their purchases to some of the less expensive but equally substantial cuts they would materially lower their living cost, the dealers pointed out. A permanent committee will be formed, Mr. Williams announced, to advise the fair price committee on the conditions in the wholesale market.

Those present at the conference yesterday, and who will comprise the advisory committee, included: George I. Edwards and W. H. Noyes, of Swift & Co.; L. Steril and A. C. Good, of Wm. & Co.; H. G. Mill, of Armour & Co.; Leo S. Joseph, of the New York Butchers' Dressed Meat Company; Irving Blumenthal, of the United Dressed Beef Company; L. M. Christian, of West Washington Market; Frederick Bisbee, of Joseph Sterns & Co.; and A. E. Glasgow, of the Indianapolis Abattoir Company.

Meat Prices Decline

The decline in the wholesale meat prices was registered yesterday in virtually every section of the city. At Washington Market dealers were quoting prices from two to four cents lower than those asked on Friday last. In many instances the prices quoted were below those named by the fair price committee on its last published yesterday.

Officials of the Sugar Equalization Board announced yesterday that the shortage is being rapidly met, but that the present season is too short to permit of the actual catching up with the demand.

An official of the Equalization Board, in discussing the shortage of sugar in rural districts, declared that hoarding by housewives is chiefly responsible for this inadequate supply. "As a matter of fact," he said, "the shortage is not being felt in the city. The refineries are now working at full capacity, turning out from 100,000 to 110,000 tons a week. The beet sugar crop is being harvested and the sugar made available for domestic consumption. The ships from Cuba are bringing in thousands of tons weekly. But the shortage, due to the failure of consumers and even of veteran dealers, to recognize the necessity of placing their orders during May, June and July, cannot be made up. There will be a slight shortage at the end of the present season.

"As for next year—if the housewives and dealers have learned the prime necessity of ordering in the months of slow demand, a shortage will easily be averted."

City Wins "Soup Race"

Against Chain Stores

Cuts Under Their Price With Army Stock; Wholesale Depot to Sell by Case Today

The city is running a nip and tuck race with the chain stores in an effort to keep the prices of army surplus supplies below those quoted by the chain store dealers. This was made clear yesterday, when Dr. Jonathan C. Day announced that the price of army canned soups had been reduced from 9 and 10 cents to 7.

"The chain store dealers are making desperate efforts to meet our prices," Dr. Day said. "By reducing their quotations on canned soups, they managed to under us yesterday. They offered three cans of soup for 25 cents while the best we could do was three for 30 cents."

"We communicated with the governing sales board at Washington, and finally obtained a price revision. We will now be able to sell canned soups at three cans for 21 cents, effecting,

for the housewife a saving of four cents."

Dr. Day was assisted by Captains Stewart and Hebblethwaite of the zone surplus property office here, in his effort to have the prices reduced.

"Our canned goods," Dr. Day said, "are from 1 to 2 cents under the wholesale prices quoted by the Fair Price Committee and from 5 to 6 cents below the retail price quotations. And it must be remembered that the fair price committee's quotations are lower than those of most stores. We are from 6 to 10 cents under to-day's prevailing prices at retail stores."

The reductions obtained by Dr. Day bought No. 1 cans of chicken, beef, tomato and vegetable soup and clam chowder from 10 to 7 cents and mook turtle and ox tail soup from 9 to 7 cents.

The sales of army supplies at the seventy schools being used as sales depots amount to \$173,213.24, not including yesterday's sales. It was estimated that yesterday's sales, because of the rain, would total about \$40,000, making a total exceeding \$500,000. It was reported from P. S. 89, 135th Street and Lexington Avenue, P. S. 12, Broadway and Academy Street, and P. S. 186, Broadway and 145th Street, that sales have lagged in the last two days. Those in charge were inclined to attribute the falling off to the poor weather.

As a reminder of the savings offered by the city, Dr. Day yesterday made public the price list of the army surplus supplies, which include: Bacon at 34 cents a pound; baked beans, No. 1 cans, 5 cents; No. 3, 11 cents; stringless beans, 11 cents; sweet corn, No. 2 cans, 11 cents; peas, 11 cents; all soups, No. 1 cans, 7 cents; condensed milk, such as Eagle Brand, 22 cents; corn, 10-cent can, 50 cents; tomatoes, No. 2 cans, 10 cents, and No. 3, 13 cents.

The sale of army food in wholesale quantities by the city will the week to-day, The Queensborough Market warehouse, which was used as a storehouse for the 500,000 pounds of bacon now sold, will be utilized as the sales depot. Hospitals, boarding houses, institutions and families desiring to purchase goods by the case can buy commodities. The soups are packed in cases of forty-eight cans each, and will sell for \$3.36. Cases of twenty-four cans of No. 3 baked beans, stringless beans, corn and peas will sell for \$2.63. Cases of twenty-four No. 2 cans of tomatoes will bring \$2.40 and cases of No. 3 cans will bring \$3.12.

Dr. Day wrote yesterday to E. C. Morse, acting sales director of army supplies, asking that army blankets be placed for sale at the public sales depots. Mr. Morse wired Dr. Day that the proposition of selling blankets to municipalities is under consideration. According to Dr. Day, the army has 2,255,294 pairs of wool socks, 2,255,294 pairs of cotton socks and 15,714,312 suits of cotton underwear which it plans to sell at the retail depot to be opened here.

The government's price for blankets, Dr. Day said, is as follows: All wool, new, \$4.20 to \$5.50; reclaimed wool and new cotton and wool mixture, \$3.20 to \$4.50; reclaimed wool and cotton, \$2.50 to \$3.25; new cotton, \$2 to \$2.75; and reclaimed cotton, 70 cents to \$1.

Europe Must Have Private Charity. Declares Hoover

Governments Too Poor to Aid and American Help Must Continue, Especially for Children, He Says

PARIS, Sept. 3.—There is still need for private charity for the assistance of Europe, Herbert C. Hoover declared when asked during his testimony before the Congressional subcommittee yesterday if such a need yet existed. The poor in all countries always need help from their governments, Mr. Hoover pointed out, and most of the European governments are now unable to assist their poor. Consequently, the need both here and abroad is acute, especially for children, he asserted, especially for children between 500,000 and 4,000,000 of whom the American relief administration has been working and who will now be fed through the private organization succeeding it.

Asked if the United States government should not support this work of feeding the children, Mr. Hoover replied he would be glad for help from all sources, as he believed child welfare work was the most important to be done.

Discussing the relief of Central Europe through a plan for the United States guaranteeing \$3,000,000,000 or \$4,000,000,000 worth of credits, as he had suggested, Mr. Hoover urged that if such credits were granted the United States should retain the right to direct what countries should receive them, to insure against any one nation getting the bulk of the help. He also declared that the credits should make it clear that the credits would be cut off from any country which failed to preserve peace.

Responding to an inquiry as to whether all the American charitable organizations assisting Europe are necessary, Mr. Hoover replied that he was unwilling to say anything to discourage charitable effort, but believed that the sixty-three organizations doing relief work in Europe should be coordinated, administered in such a way as to avoid duplication of work and placed where relief should be administered. Such a coordination would be difficult, he admitted, but it was accomplished in the Belgian relief work which was probably better, he thought, than one big organization, as various contributors want their money to be spent by the special organizations with which they are familiar.

Hoover to Sail for U. S. On Aquitania Saturday

Director General of Relief in Europe to Go to California After Dinner to Him Here

Herbert Hoover, Director General of Relief in Europe, will sail for America on Saturday on the Aquitania, according to a cablegram received yesterday by Edgar Rickard at the offices of the American Relief Administration, 115 Broadway. Mr. Rickard said yesterday: "Mr. Hoover sailed for Europe immediately after the signing of the armistice on November 11. As Director General of Inter-Allied Relief and head of the American Relief Administration, he has directed the distribution of 3-

219,896 tons of foodstuffs valued at \$770,795,000, and comprising over six hundred complete steamer cargoes. Mr. Hoover will remain in New York only long enough to attend a dinner and reception given in his honor, under the auspices of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers on September 16. He will then proceed directly to California for a long deferred return to his home at Palo Alto."

Mr. Hoover's war work has been completed and the offices of the American Relief Administration in Paris have been closed. The Food Administration exists only technically and ceased to have active control in March.

Profiteer Charge Made On 500-Ton Sugar Sale

A thorough investigation was begun yesterday by Assistant United States Attorney Matthews of the Southern District of New York and by United States District Attorney Clyne, of Chicago, into the sale of 500 tons of sugar at slightly less than 13 cents a pound. The Metropolitan's Food wholesale price on sugar is 9.5 cents.

The firm, the J. Aaron Company, of

this city, explained to Arthur Williams, Federal Food Administrator, that the sugar had been imported from Hawaii and was to be sold for export at 12 1/2 cents a pound. A local demand, according to representatives of the firm, caused them to sell the sugar in this country at the price which had been offered them overseas. The sugar equalization board has no power to regulate the price of sugar for export.

The representatives of the Aaron concern told Mr. Williams they were willing to repurchase the sugar from the Chicago firms to which they had sold it, at the same price. It is understood that the Federal authorities at Washington demand that the Aaron company refund to the purchasers the full amount of the excess charges. The sugar dealers will visit Judge Ames, Deputy Attorney General, to-day.

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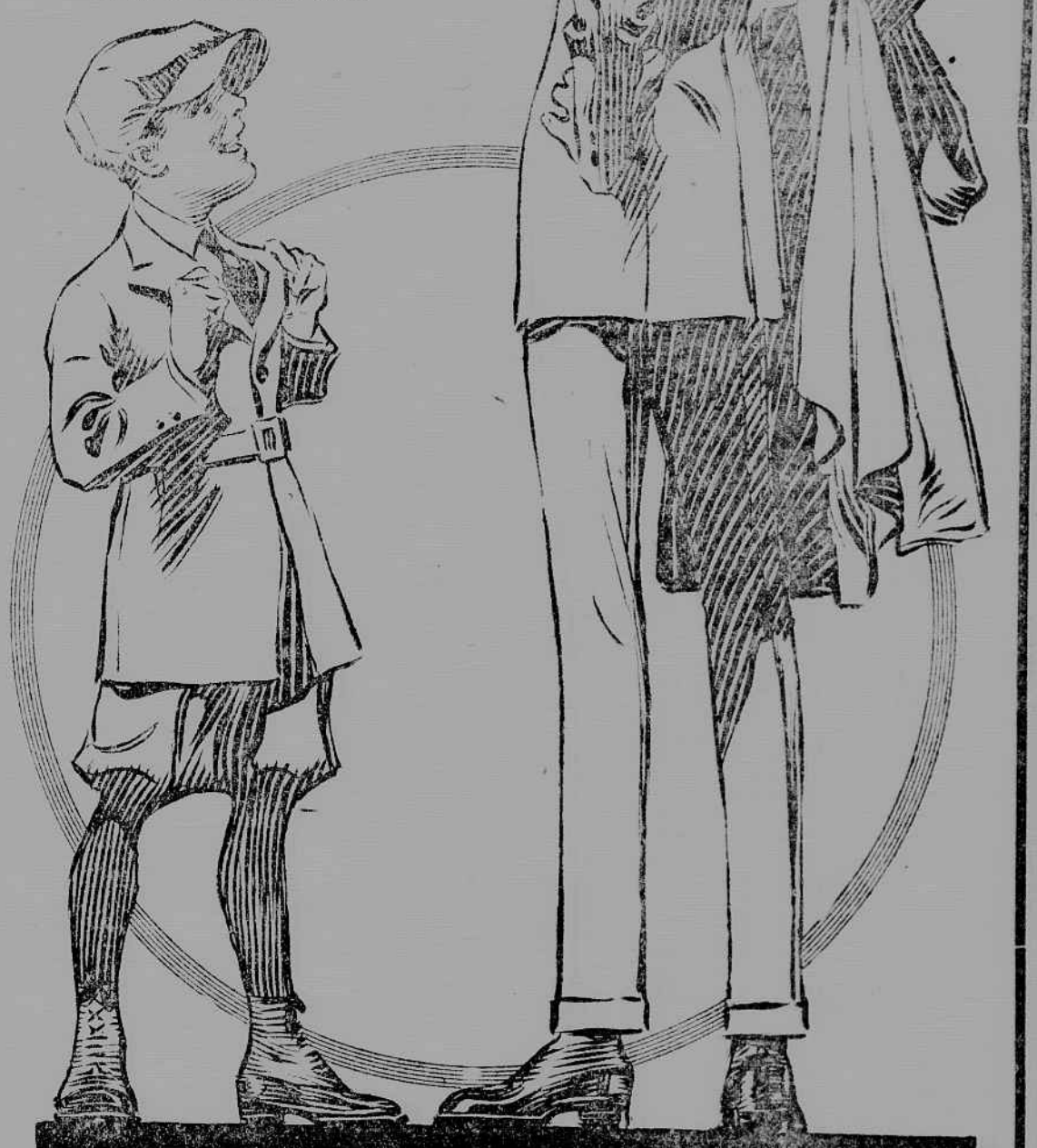
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